

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10

PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20

NIC-01 SY-10 OPR-02 A-01 USSS-00 FBO-01 PC-04 OMB-01

CU-04 OC-06 CCO-00 DRC-01 /200 W
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P 212024Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7835

INFO USCINCSO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PE

SUBJECT: STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED IN AREQUIPA AND PUNO

REF: LIMA 8492 (NOTAL)

1. GOP DECLARED STATE OF EMERGENCY WITH SUSPENSION OF CERTAIN CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES EVENING NOVEMBER 20 IN DEPARTMENTS OF AREQUIPA AND PUNO, PLACING THEM UNDER COMMAND OF THIRD MILITARY REGION CHIEF GENERAL AUGUSTO FREYRE GARCIA.

2. IN AREQUIPA, FREYRE IMMEDIATELY PROCLAIMED CURFEW FROM 2200 TO 0600 HOURS. ACTION RESULTED FROM SERIOUS RIOTING ON TUESDAY WHICH CAUSED TWO DEATHS FROM GUNSHOTS AND NUMEROUS WOUNDED, APPARENTLY WHEN POLICE FIRED ON RIOTERS. POLICE STATION AND SINAMOS OFFICE AREQUIPA ATTACKED; LATTER BADLY DAMAGED. WITH DEMONSTRATORS ROAMING STREETS, ERECTING BARRICADES, STONING CARS AND BUILDINGS AND SITUATION WORSENING, POLICE IN AFTERNOON
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WITHDREW TO BARRACKS LEAVING GUARD DETACHMENTS AT STRATEGIC

POINTS. GENERAL STRIKE CONTINUES TO PARALYZE CITY. SO FAR, EXCEPT FOR AREQUIPA, PERHAPS PUNO, AND THE CENTRAL MINING AREA, MODD OF ORGANIZED LABOR SEEMS STILL TO BE UNINVOLVED, THOUGH MILDLY ANTI-MILGOV, WITH TEACHERS AND STUDENTS DOING MOST OF THE DEMONSTRATING.

3. COMMENT: DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY CALMED SITUATION WHEN IT WAS LAST APPLIED AGAINST GENERAL STRIKE-INDUCED RIOTING SEVERAL MONTHS AGO IN MOQUEQUA AND PUNO, BUT THEN THE ISSUES WERE LOCAL IN NATURE. THE ISSUE THIS TIME WHICH HAS MOTIVATED DEMONSTRATIONS AND PROTESTS IN VARIOUS CITIES WAS THE ARREST AND FIRING BEGINNING OCTOBER 24 OF OVER 200 SUTEP TEACHER UNION LEADERS, MOST OF WHOM ARE MAOISTS BUT INCLUDING A MINORITY OF TROTSKYITES AND APRISTAS. THOUGH APRA IS STILL LARGELY ON SIDELINES, THE SEVERAL DISPARATE LEFTIST ORGANIZATIONS HAVE SEIZED ONTO CRACKDOWN AS POPULAR ISSUE WITH WHICH TO CONFRONT MILGOV AND WITH WHICH TO DISCREDIT MILGOV-SUPPORTING PCP (MOSCOW). PRESENT PHASE OF THE STRIKE, HOWEVER, HAS ALSO DRAWN WIDESPREAD POPULAR SUPPORT IN AREQUIPA AND PUNO, PROBABLY MOTIVATED AS MUCH BY ANTI-MILGOV VIEWS AS BY CONCERN OVER TEACHERS' DISPUTE AND OTHER LABOR-RELATED ISSUES. MILGOV UNTIL YESTERDAY HAS REACTED MILDLY AGAINST DEMONSTRATORS WHILE PROTRAYING THEM IN PRESS AND STATEMENTS AS VIOLENT LEFTIST SUBVERSIVES IN CONSPIRACY WITH CONSERVATIVES, BUT HAS ARRESTED IN PAST TWO WEEKS SEVERAL LEFTIST TRADE UNIONISTS (IN ADDITION TO TEACHERS) WHO ARE TRYING TO COORDINATE NATIONWIDE LABOR PROTESTS.

BELCHER

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